Document Design for Electronic Publication

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Goals

- Publish book-length technical documents as web sites

- Complement existing paper versions of the documents

- Be portable

- Satisfy sophisticated, demanding readers:
  ➠ Professional C++ programmers

Why Most Web Sites Are Awful (Not an Exhaustive List)

- Authors seize too much control:
  - Fonts and font sizes
  - Line breaks
  - Web pages should not be magazine pages!

- Fixed-size graphics — "one size fits all"

- Poor searchibility, e.g, "the double search problem"

- "Accidental" support for bookmarking:
  - Searching/scrolling after following a link
  - Frames

Browsing Innovations in
Effective C++ CD

Quick demo:

- User control over image sizes:
  - Goal: "look good" at 800x600 to 1600x1280 on 12"-21" monitors
  - Users define "look good"

- User control over navigation area size:
  - Size *available* vs. size *needed*

Browsing Innovations in *Effective C++ CD*

- Paragraph-specific granularity for
  - ➡ Bookmarking
  - ➡ Links from other documents
  - ➡ Communication
  - ➡ Full-text searching

Other Innovations

- User control over file sizes:
  - ➡ Impact on browser-based and applet-based searches

- Visually distinguished external links

- Indirect URL lookup

Future Work

- Little things:
  - User control over dingbat color and visibility
  - Better navigational aids (e.g., pop-ups)
  - Better organization of search hits (e.g., index entries should be last — perhaps optional)

- Bigger things:
  - Ability to add annotations
  - Dynamically self-configuring integrated e-book "suites"